

the Smoot-Hawley tariff and FDR's National Industrial Recovery Act as among the worst bills Congress has ever seriously contemplated." Let's make no mistake, the Democrats' government takeover of the health care industry is an attempt to finish what FDR and the Progressives could not, a cradle-to-grave omnipotent government. It will extend the recession just as surely as FDR's programs prolonged the Great Depression.

The middle class and small businesses will bear the brunt of government's takeover of 16 percent of our economy to the tune of almost \$730 billion in new taxes and an additional \$1.2 trillion in new spending. One thing is for sure, Mr. Speaker, America is getting sick, sick of this Congress' government-knows-best attitude.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, let's look at the numbers on the Democratic health care bill being rammed through Congress this week.

At almost 2,000 pages, this new bill creates 111 new offices, commissions, programs and bureaucracies. It creates more than 3,400 new duties for bureaucrats in Washington. It also will eliminate millions of jobs in the private sector and an unprecedented expansion of the Federal bureaucracy.

Instead of listening to what Americans want and working on meaningful reform, the Democratic leadership came up with a bill that will cost taxpayers more than \$1.2 trillion and do nothing to make health care more affordable in this country. This is on top of the \$9 trillion deficit we are expected to have over the next decade in this country.

Controlling costs should be our number one priority for this administration. Unfortunately, my colleagues from across the aisle continue to ignore meaningful, medical liability reform, which this year alone could save over \$11 billion. We should be listening to what the American public wants and is demanding: real tangible methods of reform.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Speaker introduced her so-called health reform bill that will cost over \$1.2 trillion and will be paid for by massive taxes on small business and cuts to Medicare.

With unemployment at 10 percent and small businesses throughout the country struggling to survive, it is irresponsible to pass legislation that will place a higher tax burden on small businesses. President Obama has

pledged to let the Bush tax cuts expire. So small businesses can expect at least two tax hits in 2 years.

A radio journalist from back home asked me this morning if measures are being taken in Congress to alleviate unemployment. My reply was, no, unfortunately there is a kind of war on free enterprise going on in Washington right now. Until that war is ended, unemployment will not drop. We should be encouraging job growth and not destroying jobs with bills like this so-called health reform.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the reviews are starting to come in on House Speaker NANCY PELOSI's health care reform proposal, and those reviews are pretty serious.

In my home State, the Richmond Times Dispatch calls the bill grotesque; but perhaps the best description that I have seen, the most accurate description I have seen, is in The Wall Street Journal, that wrote an editorial on Sunday calling this legislation the worst bill ever.

How could anyone conclude otherwise? This 1,990-page runaway train of more than 400,000 words, creating more than 53 new government agencies and programs, is not the change that the American people asked for. This bill is going to raise the cost of health care to the overwhelming majority of Americans. It's going to make our health care system more complicated than it already is, more costly than it already is.

There are simple reforms that we could adopt if we would pay attention to what the American people want.

#### DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all South Carolinians who will be harmed by the Democrats' \$1.3 trillion proposed health care bill, H.R. 3962.

The majority's health care bill will increase the health care costs, use taxpayers' dollars to pay for abortions and create bigger government in the form of 111 new bureaucrats. Worse yet, in the First District of South Carolina, this bill would increase taxes for 8,700 small businesses, cut benefits for over 11,000 seniors and burden South Carolinian veterans with a debt that they will never be able to repay.

Republicans have focused on the concerns of the American people and have created a strong Republican alternative that advocates smaller government and increases health care coverage while decreasing costs. The

Democrats in Congress must listen to the people and work with us to create a health care plan that South Carolinians and all American families want and need.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PLATTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, in my district, I am often asked do I think health care reform will pass this session. My answer is always, I certainly hope so. The status quo should be unacceptable to everyone.

However, Speaker PELOSI's reform proposal is not the right reform. Our overriding principle should be first "do no harm." Unfortunately, in my humble opinion, Speaker PELOSI's proposal will do significant harm.

Just two examples: The Speaker's proposal seeks to cut funding from Medicare by over \$400 billion, making access to quality health care more difficult for our Nation's senior citizens. Second, it raises taxes on small businesses, making it more difficult for employers to cover their employees with health insurance.

There is a better way. The Republican alternative is about lowering the cost of health care for all Americans, about ensuring the portability of health insurance, and ending the denial of health insurance due to preexisting conditions. Remember, first do no harm.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill raises taxes, especially on small businesses. Small businesses will be hit with up to an 8 percent surcharge for those who cannot afford health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill cuts Medicare and reduces benefits to seniors. The 10 million seniors who now enjoy coverage under the Medicare Advantage program will lose that coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care plan will add to the government's long-term deficit problems. It plants the seeds for a number of entitlement programs that will never in the long run be paid for but will add to the Nation's debt. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care bill is 1,990 pages, a government takeover of the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Pelosi health care plan. Let's mend our current health care system. Let's not end it.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)